North Star, from the Pole the diſtance of the Sights being made Radius, let the Stile be rivetted to the end of a ſtraight Ruler; then when you would make uſe of it, lay the Ruler on an Horizontal Plane, ſo that the end to which the Stile is fixed may over hang, then look through the Eye-ſight, moving the Inſtrument till you ſee the North Star appears to touch the circumference of the hole in the other Sight, on the ſame hand with the Girdle of *Caſſiopea*, or on the oppoſite ſide to that whereon the Star in the Great Bears Rump is, at that time then draw a line by the edge of the Ruler, and it will be a true Meridian line, as 'tis very eaſie to demonſtrate.

I do not hear that any of the Occultations of *Aldebaran* by the Moon were obſerved laſt year. I expected ſeveral, but was always hindred by the weather from obſerving any. I hope to have better ſucceſs this year, before the Moons viſible way leaves that Star.

*A Note on this Letter by the Publiſher.*

It is very likely that the Black Wood mentioned in this Letter is Oak, which has lain ſo long as to be turn'd of that colour by the Vitriolick juices of the earth in which it has lain, as galls and a ſolution of Vitriol turn of that colour. I never ſaw any Oak that had lain any time in any kind of earth, where water came to ſoak into it, that was not turned of that colour: and I have ſeen many Trees of Black Wood of great bigneſs, taken up (as well as leſſer pieces) and all of it was Oak. It looks at firſt taking up like Ebony, is very ponderous, but as it dries, it ſplits, grows friable, light, and comes to be good for little.

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*ERRATA* in No. 267.

PAg. 715. l. 33. lege definire: pag. 720. l. 13. pro Corpuſculis, lege quaſi corpuſculis.

Printed for *Sam. Smith & Benj. Walford*, Printers to the Royal Society, at the *Princes Arms* in St *Pauls* Church-yard. 1701.